

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org



SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEETING HELD AT THE SWEETWATER COMMUNITY CHURCH
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
MAY 6, 2026

Directors Present: President Felix Felix, Vice President Judy Tieber, Treasurer Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers, Richard Scott, and Mike Parnell.

Members Present: Dennise Elliot, Steve Elliot and Tony Tieber.

Guests Present: Deputy Fire Chief Mike Smith, Amanda Fredeluces, Ardyel Lim, Marianne Delatorre, CHP Lt. Jeffrey Lane, CHP Lt. Jennifer Fernandez and SD Sheriff Sgt. Carrillo.

1. Call to Order: 6:49 PM by President Felix Felix at the Sweetwater Community Church. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Special welcome: A welcome greeting was provided to our members, guests, representatives of our elected officials, and to those contemplating joining the SVCA.

3. Attendance: Members were reminded to sign in for attendance record accuracy.

4. Approval of April 1, 2026 Minutes with an amendment: Judy Tieber motioned to approve with minor corrections completed, Richard Scott seconded. Passed.

5. Treasurer's Report: Stephen Stonehouse provided the May 2026 Treasurer's report.

\$2,871.59 Previous balance
-\$45.00 PayPal to Mail Chimp

- \$48.18 PayPal Go Daddy
- \$210.00 Check # 874 Paid to Keep It Growing April Web Fee
- \$25.00 Check # 875 Paid to Steve Stonehouse CA FTB Fee
\$2,543.41 Ending balance

6. Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department: Deputy Chief Mike Smith mentioned that Chief Mike Sims met with Assemblymember David Alvarez at a Community Coffee event in Chula Vista to discuss State Federal Funding for fire station equipment and a new fire engine. With all the promotions happening in-house, a lot of professional development and training has been prioritized for succession planning. We sent part of our team to Corona for an extensive auto extrication training program, enhancing the department's rescue capabilities during vehicle accidents. Additional firefighters/engineers were sent to FDIC International in Indianapolis. They enjoyed the engagement and the training that was acquired was worth the investment and time away from family. For community events, the fire dept. had to postpone the Pancake Breakfast with the department's union until June. The setback is due to the fire station kitchen renovation that is currently underway. Once the kitchen is completed, the fire station will post the updated venue on the fire department's website and on social media. More to come.

The fire station had a community member enquire about e-bike safety. This spurred Fire Marshal, Capt. Josh Krimston to host a training event on e-bike safety. As of now, the training event is tentatively scheduled for June 6, 2026 and coordination of the event may include the CHP, Sheriff and Children's Hospital as sponsors. In addition, Bonita Fire is working with the Fire Safe Council to do some target education on home fire prevention that would include: property clean up, evacuation preparedness, and home hardening, which is the use of building materials and installation techniques that increase resistance to heat and flames. Should anyone wish to receive education & training along with a free home inspection, they are welcome to register for the event on-line at the Fire Prevention link- <https://bonitafireca.gov/wildland-fire-preparedness/>.

SVCA member Tony Tieber asked about the status of the legal action against Fire Truck Manufacturers and how it's affecting the design-build-order of the new fire engine? The anti-trust lawsuit alleges that REV Group,

Oshkosh Corporation and its subsidiary Pierce Manufacturing, Boise Mobile Equipment (BME) and private equity firm American Industrial Partners forced cities and fire departments to pay more as a result of a “years-long anti-competitive scheme” that consolidated the industry. Deputy Chief Smith mentioned that they are part of the lawsuit and in the midst of the legal action. There are supply chain issues for sourcing manufacturer fire engine parts, but it is not affecting the new fire engine as it is 2 years into a 4 year build-out. Tony asked if Deputy Fire Chief Smith was personally involved. Deputy Chief Smith mentioned, he was not, that the California Fire Chiefs as a whole was involved. SVCA President Felix asked about possibly having the SVCA come out to partake as a sponsor in the pancake breakfast venue. Chief Smith mentioned he would have the Union contact the SVCA President.

7. SD County Sheriff/CHP

A. SD County Sheriff: Sergeant Luis Carillo reported for Lt. Galve as he had to attend a council meeting in Imperial Beach. For April stats, we had two (2) larseny thefts, two (2) residential burglaries, one (1) stolen property offenses, two (2) stolen property from vehicles, as well as, two (2) vehilce thefts. For March stats, there were fraud offenses, burglaries, and larseny thefts. Two (2) residential burglaries, two (2) larseny thefts, two, and (2) vehicle thefts. SVCA President enquired about Crime Prevention Specialist Jose Ortiz, who used to show up to provide briefings at our Civic association meetings. Sgt. Carillo mentioned that he was in an auto accident and on light duty. It is uncertain if he will make a full recovery and may just retire-out. In the interim, the Sheriffs office is getting assistance from the Rancho San Diego and Santee Crime Prevention Units. President Felix mentioned that we miss him reporting out and to give him our best.

B. CHP: Lt. Jeffrey Lane introduced Lt. Jennifer Fernandez, who works out of the San Diego Safety Office. She started May 1, 2026 and will be attending the SVCA meetings from here on out for briefings. The stats to report out for the month are the following. A total of nineteen (19) vehicles were towed. He mentioned that they are investigating incidents on Briarwood, where someone is selling cars out of his residence. Two vehicles were towed from that location and eight (8) were tagged with warnings.

Two officers are working on that case. Other news to report, there were two (2) driving related arrests and twenty eight (28) crashes, with seven (7) resulting in injuries. Many of these occurred around intersections to include stop sign violations.

Regarding the 110 officers serving the region, the majority were part of the Apha-Break-In Program, which requires the newly hired to train with senior officers during that phase. There were twenty five (25) in the last four (4) months with the majority completing that program except for one. The CHP is happy to report that they have an increase in available officers to mobilize for service calls. This includes an officer that recently completed motor school training and has been added to the motor squad.

With regard to public relations, the CHP had a Distracted Driving Campaign last month, which was very successful. In addition, the CHP has been meeting with NASCAR and the Navy regarding an event at that Coronado Naval Base in June 2026 to discuss traffic safety. Attendance for the event is expected to be high with nationwide coverage and lead to an increase in traffic and congestion in the area. Best to avoid the Silver Strand and Coronado Bridge.

SVCA Director Mike Parnell expressed concern about traffic issues coming down Central Avenue. Where drivers that get in the left turning lane, decide to go straight and cause near-miss accidents with other traffic. Mr. Parnell was cut-off three (3) times in the last month. Lt. Lane mentioned that SVCA Director Mike Clowers and he voted at the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) to conduct a speed survey on that road, so that tickets could be written. Lt. Lane mentioned he would look into it and enquired about Frisbie Street. SVCA Treasurer Steve Stonehouse mentioned that they still have issues from time-to-time with motor vehicles ignoring the baricade closure and speeding through Frisbie. Lt. Lane said he would look into enforcement for that street as well. Steve also brought up an issue with someone living in a black school bus that is seen parked in different locations through out the community. SD County Sheriff, Sgt. Carillo also mentioned that they have been in contact with the owner of the school bus to move it to a different location, which he does every 2-3 days. If anyone notices that he is sleeping in the bus overnight, they should contact the sheriff to investigate. Resident Jessica Estrada asked how long does the

CHP wait to tow a vehicle that has been marked before it is towed? Lt. Fernandez stated 72 hrs. Director Clowers stated that it will be up to the complainant to follow up with the CHP to remind them that the abandoned vehicle has been marked for over 72 hrs to have it towed away. CHP Lt. Lane enquired about the late night parties in the area. Resident Jessica Estrada mentioned that they stopped those venues and now have 16 horses on the property. The smell from them is unbearable. Code enforcement has been out to investigate, but if the property owner owns all of the horses and is not boarding them, then there is nothing they can do.

SVCA Director Richard Scott enquired about the guidelines on electronic bikes. CHP Lt. Lane stated that according to recent legislation, e-bikes have a motor that is up to 150 ccs with pedals and you need at least one endorsement to ride one. Children are required to wear DOT helmets. Lt. Lane mentioned that they are aware of the issue with kids riding around on e-motorcycles, so they may consider doing an enforcement at "Bicycle to the Bike Park event". Vice President Judy Tieber mentioned she seen them in a pack of 20 and recently on Central Avenue in the middle of the road performing stunts (tricks) as vehicles pass by.

8. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

A. Ardyel Lim from Senator Steve Padilla's Office mentioned the following report: Most of the bills that Senator Padilla authored are being held in the Appropriations Committee as they have fiscal impact going through other committees. Copies of the Senator's legislative package have been left at the table, so you can familiarize yourself with the current legislative material for this session. We're also currently waiting for the governor's revised budget proposal. As soon as that is out, the legislature and the public will be working to review any changes. Our office continues to receive letters of advocacy and support from the public and other stakeholders as to how they want the state budget to look like for fiscal year 26-27. There was talk of a date of May 14th, however, the constitutional deadline for passing a balanced budget is June 15th. In other news, Senator Padilla honored and recognized, County Supervisor Paloma Aguirre at the state capital, as this year's District 18 Woman of the Year for the Tijuana river pollution crisis. Last Friday, I also attended the

first public meeting for the South County Higher Education Plan Task Force, which is a product of Senator David Alvarez's AB 662. At that meeting, they voted on the Chair, which ended up being Clarissa Falcon, a South Bay higher education advocate who has chaired the transportation commission and Vice Chair Dr. Mark Sanchez, who is the President of Southwestern College. For the upcoming three public meetings, they will each have a separate topic. One will be venues, another governance, and the third on financing options & structures for the University District in East Chula Vista.

And last, on April 28th, we were honored to be invited by Mayor John McCann's office, for the State of the City Address of Chula Vista, at the Olympic Training Center. And on April 17, the senator together with other South County officials and supporters attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for CalVEBA Chula Vista Resource Center. We've been actively working on planning more events. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Contact: Ardyel Lim, District Representative, Office of State Senator Steve Padilla, District 18, Ardyel.Lim@sen.ca.gov.

B. Marianne Delatorre, Senior Community Rep. for SD County District 1 Supervisor, Paloma Aguirre reported the following:

Marianne Delatorre mentioned that she was thankful for the feedback and insights from the previous SVCA meeting. As a result, Supervisor Aguirre along with Chula Vista Deputy Mayor Carolina Chavez are looking to attend and host a public safety forum on June 3, 2026 in coordination with the SVCA. At present, the mobile community crisis response team will be coming to do a presentation and talks have taken place with Lt. Fernandez and Lt. Galve to have them as tentative speakers. There has also been discussion with Planning and Development services to show up for Q & A to discuss stop signs, sidewalks, and speed bumps. It will be Marianne's intent that the forum is up to standard.

In addition, it was discussed to have Paloma Aguirre host the State of Bonita and she has confirmed for August 5, 2026. Further, there has been talks about the vacationing of the animal shelter and converting it into a community recreation center. Marianne is aware that the SCPG approved to work on that. So she is working on cross-coordination between all the

departments involved, which includes Planning, Animal services, and the Department of General Services. So the conversation has been started. She will be tracking it and giving updates as she learns more. She looks forward to creating a community workshop to hear all ideas to include creating a community rec center.

Speaking of ideas, others include envisioning micro-park projects at the corners of Sweetwater Rd. & Central Ave., as well as, Sweetwater Rd. & Bonita Rd. The Dep. of Public Works has been broached on the matter regarding the designing of rustic signage that says Welcome to Bonita, or having historic plaques installed with park benches and library book kiosks that would demonstrate the community's character. This was expressed at the Sweetwater Community Planning meeting in February and to Supervisor Aguirre. Marianne also mentioned that they have spent time with Ramona's Chamber of Commerce as leads on how to organize these projects and learn from their success. They plan to bring these approaches back to us for discussion.

For policy updates, at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 21st, Phase 1 of the County Film initiative led by Supervisor Aguirre passed unanimously. So that includes the design and development of a film office, a film commission, as well as, a tax rebate program. It will be great to have a Chula Vista Entertainment Complex, right in our backyard. The goal of this is to incentivize hiring local crews, vendors, hotels, etc., and supporting other local businesses, to promote a healthy business ecosystem. Phase 2, will be brought back in September and will be more about the funding aspect of it. At the same meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted to pass greater CHP coordination in unincorporated areas. As a result, Paloma's staff will be working on areas for the CHP to focus on, such as, intersections that were brought up having issues. And at that same meeting, Board of Supervisors also voted to allocate \$1.1 million to the Homelessness Diversion fund, which supports rental assistance, security deposits, and utility bills for those in crisis. Another initiative that passed, was the Arts Initiative granting \$2.3 million to fund binational arts, which will support categories like black arts and empowerment, an artist and residents program, and of course, the arts cuts that are happening in City of San Diego.

Marianne mentioned that they continue to assist small businesses, in District 1 through business walks, and so far helped 17 businesses streamline permits, marketing, and connect them to county resources. Supervisor Aguirre continues to work hard at resolving the Tijuana sewage crisis. She has a petition that's circulating for residents and supporters with over 2,000 signatures with the hopes that the next governor, will declare that issue as a state of emergency. So you may see her in the news as she has been touring with gubernatorial candidates, trying to get them to do the same and access federal funds for the cause. And then, last, Supervisor Aguirre is hosting a tele-town hall for "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs". So she can hear from constituencies to what their needs are based on these topics and issues.

C. Amanda Fredeluces, Chief of Staff for John McCann reported the following: Recently, the mayor held his annual State of the City Address, so Amanda wanted to provide a brief update in case some weren't able to attend. The city continues to grow as one of the most, safest cities in the county, state and in the nation. Currently, Chula Vista is the number one safest city in the county, and top 10 city with a population of over 200,000 people, according to the FBI. Additionally, it is one of the most economically strongest cities in the region due to projects like the Gaylord Pacific Resort and Convention Center boosting jobs, tourism, and development along Bayfront. Other projects coming up are Amara Bay, Job South, as well as, the Pangaea Project. Public safety remains a top priority, with improved emergency response times, new fire stations, and there has been a continued investment in police services and technology. The Mayor and council members have been proposing for a new substation on the east side of Chula Vista. So that is currently being looked into. The city is also investing in education through its partnership with San Diego State University, while continuing to plan for the future university presence in South County. As Ardyel mentioned, we just had the Higher Education Task Force Planning meeting at City Hall, and then right after that, we also had the San Diego State Lease signing ceremony with the City of Chula Vista. So they are able to begin classes this fall at the Millennial Library Building, which is said to open later this year. It's a 5 level building. At the bottom, it'll be the San Diego State classes, as well as, Sweetwater Union classes. It will be open first for the students going into classes for nursing and global

studies. The 2 levels above that will be the library, and then the 2 above that will be for the Chula Vista Entertainment Complex.

At the last SVCA meeting, there was concerns and questions about what the city's doing regarding e-bike safety, so updated briefing via flyers have been provided. It's a fact sheet of the city's ordinance, as well as, what's being done right now. The police department has taken a balanced approach, focused on both education and enforcement. They've commenced by going to a lot of elementary, middle, and high schools to speak to students, because we have seen kids of all age ranges, riding on these bikes. It's not just focusing on the youth, it's focused on education for parents because they are the ones buying these bikes for their kids, not knowing what's legal. So currently, the police are still doing outreach, education and handing out warnings during their active enforcement throughout the community. Other types of enforcement may include citations and impoundment of the e-motos around schools, parks, and neighborhoods where they have seen a lot of these problems.

D. Guest Speaker Bonita Highlands Open Space Chair, Mike

Webb: Introduced himself as the Open Space Chair for the Bonita Highlands Homeowner Association. His background includes being an assistant to the lead federal coordinator for FEMA Region 9, dealing with Disaster Preparedness, fires, response, etc... The association has 127 acres of open space with 7 miles of trails and equestrian areas. The best way to describe Proctor Valley is having an urban-wildlife interface with open space, fish and wildlife game area. He was tasked in April of last year to come up with a two year plan for addressing this maintenance within the highlands, which has 12 open space areas. The threat comes from Santa Anna winds that originate and blow from the east to the west. So, when doing an open space maintenance strategy, like tree work and brush clearing, it's not a one and done. It's actually a three year strategy. The objective is to start closer to Proctor Valley, work towards the east, then come back and start the process over again. The goal is to not only reduce insurance costs and meet certification, but to take on a more proactive grass-roots approach to protecting the homes and the open space areas that are valued so highly. Attached is a summary for the BHHA 3-Year Open Space & Firewise Plan.

9. Continuing Business:

A. Discussion to create a Sheriff/CHP Panel for more presence,

Update: SVCA President Felix confirmed with Marianne Delatorre that a Public Safety Forum date has been confirmed for June 3, 2026. Marianne, said that they are in talks with CHP and Sheriff, but that further talks need to happen with Code Enforcement and the Chula Vista Police to attend. There is also discussion that Chula Vista Deputy Mayor Carolina Chavez may show. So Paloma's staff will make an invite out to them as well. Marianne mentioned that a flyer will be circulated along with our logo via email blast through their system. SVCA President Felix mentioned that for the event, we speculate a large number of stakeholders will show, so it will be important to determine and reserve the right size room and location for the venue. Vice President Judy Tieber concurred that anytime we have law enforcement or anything to do with traffic, we fill up the room. She proceeded to say that the auditorium at Valley Vista Elementary school would be ideal from previous successes at that location. SVCA Director Mike Clowers said the Sweetwater Community Church would be another great location. He said that he would look into it and get back with the SVCA. President Felix said we should look into reserving both locations to ensure we have more than one option.

B. Nomination Committee for SVCA Elections extended to Sept.

2026, Update: SVCA Ad Hoc Committee members Mike Clowers and Mike Parnell said they met and spoke about the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association Elections that were extended to September, 2026. There were talks about getting clarity over the process as some SVCA board members had questions about the letters and logistics process. President Felix mentioned that this meeting that we are having now would address those concerns. In addition, there has been a lot of strategizing and unresolved ideas on how to market and gain more interest to recruit SVCA Board members or officers. The SVCA Ad Hoc wanted to ensure that they had all the instructions and resources they needed to include the nomination letters to attract interest. There was concern about making sure the Committee could recruit potential new board members to qualify for a seat by attending at least two consecutive meetings by September's extension. President Felix reiterated that he had spoken to the Ad Hoc Nomination Committee about externalities distracting them from moving forward. He

understood that life happens between all their planning. However, the Ad Hoc Committee was reminded that they were emailed all the resources, to include the Ad Hoc Nomination procedures and letter written for them as it was already turn-key. We just needed to firm up any loose ends at this meeting. They have their marching orders-go forth and take care of it.

C. Discussion of Membership Drive for June, August or Sept.

2026, Update: SVCA President Felix spoke about the Membership drive as we were not sure, which month would be ideal to promote the drive. After much planning and deliberation, it was determined to promote the drive during the State of Bonita on August 5, 2026. However, this will be complemented by conducting a slow drip campaign through the three different social media drive campaigns we created to be released over time along with the approved SVCA letters. President Felix requested for the SVCA Secretary to reach out should she have any issues posting the campaigns. But, we need to hold this meeting first to approve the revised SVCA Membership Application with increased fees before the Membership Drive letters are distributed with the applications. SVCA Vice President Judy Tieber affirmed that we would start the drive with letters in the mail and online through social media blasts and then slow drip campaigns after that. Members in the audience suggested posting flyers at Starbucks, 711 or Murrietta's. President Felix thanked everyone for their suggestions. Vice President Judy Tieber suggests that the flyers for the Public Safety Forum and State of Bonita should include reminders to becoming a member. Marianne Delatorre said that they are working on flyers for the events.

D. Community Engagement Support and concept development of a Bonita Community Recreation Center to be located at the soon-to-be vacated County Animal Shelter property, Update:

SVCA President Felix thanked Marianne Delatorre for working behind the scenes on the project and updating us. We have some traction as Marianne Delatorre is "fighting for us". Director Steve Stonehouse wanted to make sure that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Rec Center meet when the County is ready to engage. Vice President Judy Tieber sent SVCA Secretary Liz Stonehouse an email update regarding her communication with wanting to meet with the County. More too come on that.

10. New Business:

A. Approval of Increasing Individual, Family & Community Partner membership fees by \$10 for next fiscal year: President Felix introduced the idea of increasing the individual, family and community partner membership fees by \$10 for next fiscal year. He shared the original application with individual membership fees currently at \$15, the community nonprofit and for-profit at \$50, and family membership fees at \$25. He then asked the Board how long has the membership application for the Civic Association existed at the current fees. According to Director Steve Stonehouse it has been prior to 2014. President Felix surmised that it has been over 12 years. Meanwhile, we see a lot of different associations and clubs that have been increasing their membership fees to keep up with the cost-of-living expenses. So it would be justifiable for us to consider making some increases in our membership fees, to recoup some of the costs that we need in order to maintain the association. Thinking along those lines, it would be agreeable to increase fees by \$10. So instead of \$15 for the individual member, we could raise it by another \$10, so \$25 would be the new fee for that.

Vice President Judy Tieber agreed that it was justifiable. According to Director Richard Scott, he felt that we should double the fees. However, Vice President Judy Tieber felt that would be too much. So, President Felix shared with membership what the new application fees would look like. Director Mike Parnell made a motion to raise the fees for individual, family, and community partners by \$10 for the next fiscal year. Vice President Judy Tieber seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimous. President Felix thanked everyone and mentioned that the new membership application would be posted shortly and to spread the word.

11. Community Forum:

A. County Traffic Advisory Committee Mike Clowers, updates: Director Mike Clowers reported that he stopped by Golf Glen Rd. to check to see if the new stop signs were posted. They were up. Director Mike Parnell said that it will take time for drivers to get used to them as they are blowing by them.

B. SVCA Membership: Vice President Judy Tieber noted that we have 68 members: 28 gold and 40 paid. She mentioned that she has been

working on the membership letters and will be sending a separate one to also thank our Gold Members for their continued support and to encourage them to come to our meetings. It's time to start preparing for our membership drive and incorporate this message with the Public Safety Forum and State of Bonita.

12. Other Announcements & Items not on the Agenda: Vice President Judy Tieber mentioned that she reached out to San Diego County Behavior Health Services to be a guest speaker as their mobile crisis response unit would be an informative and interesting presentation. But due to the Public Safety Forum and State of Bonita events, it was postponed until October 2026. Judy also reiterated that if anyone can think of a speaker that would be a good fit for presenting at our meetings, please let us know. Marianne Delatorre mentioned that she would be happy to connect us with different County Departments, as well as, other organizations to be guest speakers at our meetings.

13. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Stonehouse, Secretary

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (SVCA) fosters and promotes community spirit and civic pride through proactive engagement with the County, local elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, emergency first responders, and community groups/organizations with the goal of improving the quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley community.

BHHA 3-Year Open Space & Firewise Plan - Board Summary

Purpose

Implement a 3-year strategy to reduce wildfire risk, protect infrastructure, and maintain 127 acres of open space.

Scope

Includes 127 acres, 7.5 miles of trails, equestrian areas, greenbelts, and irrigation systems.

Key Risks

High fire hazard zones, flammable vegetation, proximity to Proctor Valley, and unmanaged adjacent land.

Strategy

- 1) Reduce fuel loads
- 2) Modify vegetation
- 3) Protect infrastructure and access routes

Decision Framework

All work is based on:

- Threat to homes
- Threat to evacuation routes
- Drainage and fuel accumulation

Prioritization

Focus on High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, starting in the east and progressing west.

Firewise Integration

Align with Firewise USA standards to improve community wildfire resilience and insurance eligibility.

Homeowner Role

Maintain defensible space, trim vegetation, and support fire-safe practices.

Financial Impact

Reduces long-term risk, supports insurability, and avoids emergency costs.

Conclusion

This plan positions BHHA as a proactive, fire-resilient community focused on safety and long-term value.